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**MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF THE STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, STRATFORD DISTRICT COUNCIL ON TUESDAY 10 MARCH 2020 AT 4 PM**

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**PRESENT**

The District Mayor N C Volzke (the Chairman), the Deputy Mayor A L Jamieson, Councillors G W Boyde, R W Coplestone, P S Dalziel, J M S Erwood, A K Harris, V Jones, M McKay, W J Sandford and G M Webby.

**IN ATTENDANCE**

The Chief Executive – Mr S Hanne, the Director – Corporate Services – Mrs T Radich, the Director Assets – Mrs V Araba, the Director Environmental Services – Mr B Sutherland, the Director – Community Services the Executive Administration Officer – Ms R Vanstone, the Communications Manager – Ms G Gibson (*part meeting*), the Environmental Health Manager - Ms R Otter (*part meeting*) and three members of the media (Stratford Press and the Daily News).

1. **WELCOME**

The District Mayor welcomed the Chief Executive, Councillors, staff and members of the media. He advised elected members that a Taranaki Daily News photographer would take photos of council in session for the purpose of updating their stock of profile pictures.

The District Mayor reminded Councillors to familiarise themselves with the Health and Safety message included in the agenda.

2. **APOLOGIES**

There were no apologies.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

4. **DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS INTEREST**

The District Mayor requested Councillors to declare any real or perceived conflicts of interest relating to items on this agenda.

Councillors were reminded that the monthly update for the declaration of member's interest would be circulated for them to update and sign.

In relation to today's agenda, elected members had no real or perceived conflicts of interest.

5. **ATTENDANCE SCHEDULE**

The Attendance Schedule for Ordinary and Extraordinary Council meetings was attached.

6. **CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

6.1 **Ordinary Meeting – 11 February 2020**  
D20/2424 (Pages 7-12)

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 11 February 2020 be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

ERWOOD/BOYDE  
Carried  
CL/20/12

6.2 **Policy and Services Meeting – 25 February 2020**  
D20/3404 (Pages 13-22)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the unconfirmed minutes of the Policy and Services Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 25 February 2020 be received.

McKAY/DALZIEL  
Carried  
CL/20/13

2. THAT the recommendations in the minutes of the Policy and Services Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 25 February 2020 be adopted.

SANDFORD/WEBBY  
Carried  
CL/20/14

6.3 **Executive Committee Meeting – 5 December 2019 – Public Excluded**  
D20/2377 (Pages 23-24)

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of Council held on Thursday 5 December 2019, including the public excluded section, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

SANDFORD/DALZIEL  
Carried  
CL/20/15

The District Mayor apologised to councillors that the executive minutes did not go to the February meeting of council for confirmation.

6.4 **Executive Committee Meeting – 11 February 2020 – Public Excluded**  
D20/2390 (Pages 25-27)

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 11 February 2020, including the public excluded section, be confirmed as a true and accurate record.

ERWOOD/DALZIEL  
Carried  
CL/20/16

7. **DECISION REPORT – RATES REMISSION POLICY**  
D20/3458 (Pages 30-44)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report be received.

JONES/McKAY  
Carried  
CL/20/17

2. THAT the changes to the Rates Remission Policy be approved to be released for public consultation as required under Section 102 of the Local Government Act 2002, giving effect to Section 82 of the Local Government Act 2002.

BOYDE/COPLESTONE  
Carried  
CL/20/18

The Director – Corporate Services noted the following points:

- This is the third time in the last year that this policy has been reviewed. Reviews ensure the fair and equitable application of rate remissions to the community and ratepayers and ensures a consistent approach with other rates remission policies.
- The proposed amendments provide for remission of rates for properties which meet specific conditions and criteria. The first is the remittance of certain rates where a residential building has been subject to fire and is uninhabitable. The second involves the rates remittance for abandoned land in order to reduce the administration costs of uncollectable rates. Thirdly, council proposes the removal of the Heritage Remission Policy, Land Protected for Conservation Purposes Policy, and Biodiversity Policy (indigenous vegetation, significant habitats of indigenous fauna and wetlands) and also on wastewater (sewerage) systems rates for educational establishments.
- The last three policies (as noted above) have had no applications for remissions for many years.
- Under the Heritage Remission Policy, three Stratford properties receive rates remissions.
- If approved today, the draft will go out for consultation for four weeks and the three ratepayers affected by the removal of the Heritage Remission Policy will be invited to make submissions. It is intended that this matter will be back before council within six weeks.

The District Mayor reminded councillors that the policy had been discussed in workshop and that those discussions were reflected in the draft policy. He also noted that the affected parties of the Heritage Remission Policy change would be advised of the submission process.

8. **DECISION REPORT – DOG CONTROL POLICY AND STATEMENT OF PROPOSAL**

D20/87

(Pages 45-63)

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. THAT the report be received.

ERWOOD/COPLESTONE  
Carried  
CL/20/19

2. THAT the *draft* Dog Control Policy 2020 be approved and released for public consultation.

McKAY/BOYDE  
Carried  
CL/20/20

The Manager Environmental Health noted the following points:

- Council would like to extend the consultation period noted in the Statement of Proposal from 20 April to 23 April allowing for the Easter holiday period, rural post and to comply with the legislated consulted requirements.
- As noted, Council is required to have a policy under legislation.
- The amendments to the policy include lifting the restriction of dogs in the CBD and Prospero Place and allowing for dogs on leash in those areas; the inclusion of registered dog breeders to the criteria for Select Ownership; and the inclusion of a map showing the defined dog exercise areas on leash and restricted areas.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- Councillor McKay in referring to the map, requested that the border lines be made more obvious prior to releasing for consultation.
- Councillor Jamieson suggested a change to wording under the select dog owner criteria reflecting any person whose unneutered dog/s is registered with New Zealand Dogs as a pedigree. This change clarifies that that an owner with an unneutered dog may not necessarily be a breeder.
- Councillor Harris noted that there was no reference to the western loop being a leashed area, as passed by this council late last year when the Parks and Reserves Bylaw was considered. Ms Otter made note of this addition for inclusion.
- Councillor Dalziel noted that not all offences as listed in the Dog Control Act were included in the policy. Ms Otter explained that while legislation overrides any bylaw or policy, adding that the list of offences should be removed from the policy altogether and reference made instead to the relevant schedule in the act. There were no objections to the suggested change.
- Councillor Jones added that it was disappointing to note that the Stratford Press's last article, which noted the lifting of the restrictions on Broadway and Prospero Place, did not clearly state that dogs should be on leash in that area. He hoped that this omission would not reflect in the number of submissions received.

The Executive Administration Officer undertook to make the following amendments:

- Vaughan – page 10 – jones disappointed at the press did not state that dogs had to be on leashes on broadway. Change the wording to reflect. Article omitting to put dogs on leashes.

*The Environmental Health Manager left the meeting at 4.22pm.*

9. **DISTRICT MAYOR'S REPORT**  
D20/3577 (Pages 62-69)

**RECOMMENDATION**

THAT the District Mayor's report be received.

VOLZKE/JAMIESON  
Carried  
CL/20/21

The District Mayor noted the following points:

- Essentially the business case for the 2019 Provincial Growth Fund ("PGF") application identified in excess of \$20 million worth of work for State Highway 43. A proportion of that included core work for completion by the New Zealand Transport Agency. This would have been part of the agency's work programme and may have taken a lot longer to complete. So, as well as the \$9.6 million from the PGF, an additional \$13.4 million in funding will be received in the coming months and over the next few years to comprehensively complete all of the work needed including culvert, bridge replacement, signage, crash barriers, passing areas etc.
- The racing industry bill submission is now part of the parliamentary process.
- Council volunteered the services of a member of staff, Mario Bestall, who worked in the civil defence operations unit in Southland following the floods which affected that part of the country.

Questions/Points of clarification:

- Councillor Boyde asked whether the Council and the Stratford Business Association had started to consider opportunities to capture the estimated additional 13,000 visitors per year who will travel on the sealed State Highway 43. Mayor Volzke responded that opportunities are well and truly entrenched in the Tapuae Roa Strategy with Stratford being the first and last opportunity for travellers to refuel.
- Councillor Boyde also asked whether Stratford would be involved in some of the outcomes of the various feasibility studies that dropped out of the PGF and Tapuae Roa? Mayor Volzke clarified that NZ First had assured that there would be future opportunities similar to those provided by the PGF.

10. **QUESTIONS**

There were no questions.

*The meeting closed at 4.30pm.*

N C Volzke  
**CHAIRMAN**

Confirmed this 14<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020.

N C Volzke  
**DISTRICT MAYOR**